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ADDRESS OF

JUDGE J. Z. GEORGE,

DELIVERED AT

**STARKVILLE, MISSISSIPPI,**

AT THE LAYING OF THE CORNER STONE

OF THE

**Agricultural and Mechanical College,**

SEPTEMBER 22, 1879.

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JACKSON, MISS.:  
THE COMET BOOK PRINTING ESTABLISHMENT.  
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The business which has brought us together, is one of serious import—the inauguration of the A. & M. College, by laying its corner-stone.

As the enterprise is new, as it proposes new methods of education, and seeks to attain new ends, it is well some explanation should be made of the purposes of the Trustees.

I shall, therefore, point out some of the difficulties which are to be overcome, if success be attained, and call attention to some of the objects which it is proposed to be accomplished, and give some of the reasons which justify, and, in my judgment, demand the liberal and generous support of the institution by the Legislature and the public.

**First Need.**

The first great need for this College is, that it shall unite what has heretofore in Mississippi, at least, been separated—high mental culture and manual labor.

We propose to yoke these two forces together, and

send them out on the mission of building up Mississippi—advancing her to that high plane of material prosperity and intellectual improvement to which her natural resources and the genius of her people entitle her.

#### Education of Brain and Hand.

We propose to educate the brain and the hand together; to make the same human being both a thinker and a worker. As God has given each one of his children both hands and brains, muscle and intellect, we propose in training this work, to follow the order He has pointed out; not to mar or counteract it. He gave us the physical and intellectual man united in one—the mind to think and the body to labor. This is the perfect being that God created and placed on this earth to work out his destiny. We propose to train and educate this being in all his faculties, powers and endowments, as he received them from his Creator. We do not propose to make half men—by stimulating the intellect into an abnormal activity, and leaving the body to waste and perish; nor do we propose to reverse this by the developing muscle unnaturally, and crushing out the spiritual and intellectual part of our being.

We propose to make here no dreamers, no splendid and dazzling intellectual prodigies, with neither the capacity nor the will to do the world's works nor, on the other hand, do we propose to make machines of men, mere automatons—to be worked and moved by the will and intellect of others. We would endow each man with power to conceive and determine what he should do, and how it should be done, and with the capacity and will to work out practically, with his own hands, his own conceptions.

Within these halls and in these fields, as a part of a

system of education, we propose that study and manual labor shall go hand in hand, so that the graduate of this institution may be able to know what to do, how to do it, and then be able to do for himself what he has judged should be performed.

So much for the general aims of this College. But as neither all kinds of manual labor can be efficiently performed by one man, nor the whole circle of human knowledge mastered by him, we propose to select from this work and this knowledge that which the needs of Mississippi most demand shall be performed and possessed by her people.

The interests of Mississippi are almost exclusively agricultural. Her climate, her soil, the world's need for her crops, the absence of mines, and quarries, and sea ports, the tastes and habits of her people, all demonstrate that the foundation of her prosperity lies in successful agriculture.

The present condition of our people, their debts and embarrassments; the present condition of our agriculture, our worn out and exhausted fields in the hill districts; the need of fertilization, our ignorance of the practice of farming not based on the natural fertility of the soil; the disposition of the people to remove to fresher and newer countries; the prevalent desire to abandon agriculture for other pursuits; the wish to abandon country life and try the precarious, and uncertain, and over crowded business of cities and towns; the general decay and shrinkage of all values; the discontent and unrest of the disappointed, the immobility of despair, all admonish us that something must be done—that there must be some change of our methods in the leading industry of the State.

### Practical Agriculture.

Recognizing the needs of the State, the Trustees of this institution propose to have taught here, in a large degree, that which pertains to scientific and practical agriculture, including in this term horticulture, and stock raising; and to teach that in a way that the graduate shall really be fitted to follow and practice agriculture in all its branches. This is our great aim for the present. In after years, when agriculture shall have become more prosperous, and the needs of the State shall be more in the direction of manufactories or other industrial callings, the teaching of these will have more attention.

The education proposed to be given, though looking mainly to the fitting of the student for a successful career in agriculture, will not, as some erroneously suppose, be small in amount or ignoble in degree.

### Amount of Education for Agriculture.

There is no calling which men follow that requires a larger fund of information, a clearer and better trained judgment, greater versatility in capacity, a larger abundance of mental resources, greater familiarity with the operation of the laws of nature, than agriculture.

All other callings nearly are capable of sub-divisions—so that their followers may become specialists in some parts or branches. I believe it requires the separate work of more than a half dozen to manufacture a pin.

In agriculture as practiced in the United States, there is but little room for such division of labor and knowledge. On each farm, all the knowledge and the labor needed on all farms, are required. The growing of hay, the cereals, cotton, the various garden vegeta-



bles, and the fruits of the orchard, and vineyard ; the breeding and rearing of cattle, horses, mules, and sheep, and domestic fowls ; the fattening of such as are desired for food ; provision against wind, rains, and storms, and drouth ; the proper preparation, seeding and cultivation of the various kinds of soil ; the protection of the crops against insects ; the making and application of manures ; the making of fences, and dwellings, and out-houses ; the caring for and growth and preservation of suitable kinds of timber ; the ventilation and disinfection of all buildings ; the care for the vigor and health of all kinds of live stock, and the proper remedies for those that are diseased, and the prevention of the spread of infection among them ; the making of gates, bridges, roads, ax and hoe handles, stocking of plows and harrows, drainage and landscape gardening, all are the business of the farmer, and should be understood by him.

To do this work intelligently and well, involves a knowledge of chemistry, physics, mechanics, civil engineering, zoology, entomology, physiology, comparative anatomy, botany, meteorology, and geology. I do not mean that the farmer should thoroughly understand all that is embraced in these branches of human knowledge ; but I do mean to assert that a knowledge of the general and elementary principles of each is, if not essential, at least highly advantageous ; and that the continued study of them, in connection with the practical operations of his calling, furnish the farmer a wide and useful field for high intellectual exercise.

Energy, pluck, saving, though united with ignorance, have won on rich and unexhausted lands a kind of pecuniary success ; but it is temporary and costly ; it impoverishes the soil, wears out the land, and, in the

end, creates a greater necessity for a more intelligent agriculture.

No youth may avoid this College because it will not teach enough.

The technical training of the youth of Mississippi, as farmers and mechanics, is the main object of this institution. Still, we do not propose to stop the educational process at that point. The farmer's world, though principally on his farm, is not circumscribed by the boundary lines of his land. We recognize that he is a citizen of a free country—that he has rights and duties connected with the due organization and operation of governmental and social forces. Having made the student a thinker, by the training specially required for a farmer, we propose to make him a correct reasoner, and to give him the power of elegant and forcible expression. He must not only have the power to investigate, but to weigh and determine; and having reached a conclusion, he must be able to state not only what it is, but the process by which he reached it. We therefore propose to accomplish that most difficult, yet most desirable of educational results—training the faculty of reasoning—giving it healthy food for expansion and growth, and at the same time supplying the power of a clear and forcible communication of thought.

We do not except, nor do we desire to bestow the fatal gift of that elequence which equally subjugates the reason of its possessor, and captivates but does not convince its hearers. We do not mean to make men the abject slaves of this power of facile and elegant expression, nor to add to the list of the demented by aiding in the subjection of the brain to the tongue; and of thought to speech. This disease is now too common, and may

be denominated glossomania—lingual insanity—word-madness.

### Dignity of Labor.

We propose, also, to dignify and ennoble manual labor. Under the prevailing system, the more a man has been educated, the more he is indisposed to manual labor; brain work has been regarded as unfit to be yoked with hand labor. And the educated man who has failed to gain his living without a resort to manual labor, has been regarded as a failure in life.

Education has, thus far, unfitted men for manual labor. It has placed a mark of inferiority on him, who has no other means of subsistence than his own labor. Certain it is that a large majority of the inhabitants of the world—a large majority of the people of the United States, and of this State, are now compelled, and will for all time be compelled to gain their living by their daily labor.

There is no way of preventing this. This labor constitutes the wealth and furnishes the comforts and luxuries of the world. In fact, wealth is utterly valueless except as an actual or potential purchaser of human labor or its results. That which can be had without human labor, however useful, is without commercial value. The air we breathe, though essential to life, yet because it is the gift of nature, inexhaustible and free to all, is not a thing which can be estimated as wealth. But let a mode be discovered by which some substance may, by human labor be infused into the air, making it more wholesome, more health-giving, and let the air thus improved be capable of being confined to the separate use of him who has thus improved it, and then by this addition of human labor it becomes

wealth and is the object of the desires and energies of men.

If gold and diamonds were strewn all over the land like pebbles on the sea shore, they would become as worthless as a part of wealth, as the pebbles themselves.

#### Duty as to Laborers.

Since then all wealth—all the comforts and luxuries of life are the product of human labor; and since a majority of mankind are, and must always remain laborers, it is the clear duty of a free government instituted by the people for the common and equal good of all, to so arrange its policies and administrative forces, that this labor should be made the highest of efficiency and productiveness to the laborer, and entirely accordant with his physical, moral, intellectual and social well-being. If there is a stigma attached to it, it must be removed; if pleasure and improvement can be associated with it, the association must take place. In agricultural pursuits this association is easy and natural.

#### Union in Labor and Knowledge of Agriculture.

Let the agriculturist learn the principles upon which his calling rests; let him be taught that which fits instead of that which unfits him for the work he has to do, and he will at every step of his progress, have occasion to think, to investigate and determine. As his plow turns up the bosom of the earth, he will observe the nature and character of the soil in different parts of the field, and consider its adaptabilities and its wants. He will think of the construction of his plow—its best shape to do perfect work, and at the same time to secure the least resistance to its progress in the earth. And these or similar mental operations will

accompany all the labor he may perform. There is not a single operation on the farm—not a blow stricken, with which intelligence and thought may not be profitably associated. A mind properly trained, and thus exercised in all the employments of the body, will grow and strengthen; and with increased and increasing vigor and strength, will be able to take in and solve all the great problems of domestic and political economy; and last, though not least, will dignify and ennoble its occupation, and bring to its possessor the pleasures and the triumphs of knowledge and intellect.

#### Creative Art.

Agriculture is the only creative art. All other works of men consist only in changing the form of something already existing, and this change is universally accomplished through a loss or destruction of some part of the matter which has been metamorphosed. Agriculture creates; it adds to what before existed. It plants one seed and reaps one hundred; it thus augments by ninety-nine fold former existences. In this creative process the agriculturist uses mainly the forces of nature. Shall he who evokes, and subjects to the good and happiness of mankind, the grand powers and capacities of an infinite nature, be a dullard and an idiot, a blind wanderer in the great work-house of Providence, trusting that by luck or chance, he may stumble on a prosperous issue to his labors?

That this technical education of farmers is not universally recognized as necessary, is mainly due to the farmers themselves. They have, in the main, been content to have it regarded that agriculture was a mere contest between the muscle of the laborer, and the briars and noxious weeds which war against their

crops. When a farmer has had the means to educate his sons, he has educated them out of agriculture into the professions. It is one of the objects of this College to remove this temptation on the part of intellect and culture to seek other walks in life to the neglect of agriculture.

#### Influence in Public.

The general education, we propose to give added to the technical training, will fit the farmer for instructive and pleasant social intercourse, and place him in that position where he can take a useful part in public affairs, and exercise an influence beneficial to the State.

I think the influence of agriculturists (including in this term all who by mechanics or otherwise, contribute in any way to the development of the agricultural wealth of the State) ought to be increased in public affairs. I think there ought to be a larger participation by them in the discharge of duties which relate to the due management of the affairs of the State and the counties. I think that influence would be good. That it should be good and good only, it must needs proceed from men who have an intelligent conception of the public wants, and of the means to provide for these wants. I have no sympathy with the senseless clamor sometimes heard which would exclude from all participation in public offices, men however qualified, and however patriotic, merely because they are not connected directly with agriculture; and I have as little for that equal folly that demands the selection of an officer merely upon the ground that he is a farmer or mechanic, without reference to his qualifications.

In a free government, the true emanation of the pop-

ular will—the laws and policies should be the result of the average interests, and average thought, and average aspirations of the people. Among the Anglo-Saxon race and their descendants, there seems to be an aptitude for free institutions; and this aptitude seems to consist, in a large degree, in the capacity to ascertain what this common and average opinion is, and then to give it effect. This is what may be termed the common sense of the community, and the government—its tendencies and policies—can rarely be higher, nobler or wiser than this common sense demands. In the formation of this average and common opinion—in giving it voice and force in the government, the agriculturists of the State, constituting four-fifths of the people, should exercise a potential influence. They are usually conservative. The methods by which they acquire pecuniary independence are prudence, patience, energy and economy. As a rule, they are opposed to a wasteful and extravagant administration—as taxpayers, and not tax-receivers, their influence would be to cut down expenditures to the lowest possible limit consistent with administrative efficiency. Unskilled in political and party machinery, they would be against all jobs and rings—all bounties to favorites—all expenditures not for the public good.

I would not like to see a Legislature composed exclusively of farmers and mechanics, nor would it be for the public good that there should be no Representative of these interests in that body. There should be in every Legislature men skilled in the laws of the State, competent to put in appropriate language the statutes which are to be enacted, and to determine how far a new statute will entrench upon the provisions of existing laws. There ought also to be there an influ-

ential body of men connected with the leading industries of the State—familiar with the wants and wishes of the great mass of the people—sharing equally with them the burdens and disasters and successes of life. If they should draft no laws, if they should inaugurate no new and untried policies; still there will be that in the very atmosphere in which such a body of men move which will influence beneficially the action of the Legislature.

### Influence on Negroes.

I have said that the capacity for the safe and orderly working of free institutions seemed to be a race aptitude of the Anglo Saxons, and their descendants, and this aptitude seems to consist largely in the capacity of that race to understand and give effect to the common and average opinion and aspirations of the people—that this was governing by the common sense of the community.

It is the peculiar felicity of the Anglo-Saxon race, that this average common sense of the people has favored equality in rights and privileges among the people. That it has been liberty-loving, and at the same time conservative and law-abiding.

It has bowed before the majesty of law, and sought redress for wrongs by lawful means. It has been progressive; but it has reached its aims by sure and slow steps, tempering progress with conservatism, change with a leaven of the past. It has hastened slowly—with the patience of the insect toilers of the sea, which consume ages in building the coral islands—it has spent a thousand years in developing the principles and perfecting the measures upon which free government rests. Its advance has been regular and steady—



sometimes cautious and tentative, marked by retreats, but by no deliberate counter-marches.

This average opinion, this common sense of the people of England, is largely the result of the thought and feelings of the country people, the agriculturists and freeholders.

There is another reason of great moment, which demands a larger infusion of agriculturists in public affairs. A majority of the population of the State consists, now, and is likely to consist for many years, of a race which has no capacities for self-government. It will be a long time, if ever, when that race shall cease to be a powerful factor in public affairs.

How this race, free as they are to pursue such political methods as they choose, or may be chosen for them, is to be prevented from adopting such courses as will bar progress and check prosperity, is a problem which we must solve, if solution be possible. It can't be solved by education alone, for self-government is not a science to be taught. The Germans are the best educated people on earth. There is no human learning in which they are not skilled; nothing knowable, which their savants have not mastered, yet with all their genius and learning, with all their aspirations for humanity, with their parliaments elected by the people, the Fatherland is but a military camp, its policies dictated by one iron will. The French no less endowed and cultivated, after an hundred years of alternate anarchy and despotism, after shedding oceans of blood in the vain attempt at propagandism of republican ideas, after being shorn of their fairest provinces and humiliated by the tramp of hostile armies in their capital, have again essayed free institutions. As yet, the

Republic is an experiment, a hopeful one I admit, but the issue is uncertain.

On the other hand, the Anglo-Saxons and their descendants, now constituting over two hundred millions of English speaking people, possessing one-quarter of the globe as their inheritance—wherever they have located—in America, in the continent of Australia, in Southern Africa, in the islands of Polynesia, and in whatever stage of progress the settlers on the new lands may have been, have shown their aptitude for free government.

The problem can't be solved by fraud or force. Whatever methods of revolution may be allowed a people to regain self-government, to expel usurpers, or to drive from unmerited places those who have prostituted the powers of government to the destruction of the Commonwealth, yet as soon as this end is attained, all methods not sanctioned by law must cease. Poison may be administered as medicine to the sick, but it cannot be made the normal food of the healthy. Anglo-Saxon liberty is a liberty regulated by law. Obedience to law is its soul and animating spirit, and the enforcement of law with justice, impartiality, purity and firmness against all, however strong, and for the protection of all however weak, is its corner stone, its foundation and support.

That this people are unfit for self-government is no fault of theirs. Having neither ancestral aptitudes nor acquired capacities for free government, they had thrust upon them powers and duties for which they were wholly unfit. Being recognized "wards" of the nation, they were, whilst in that condition, made "guardians" of the most sacred trusts, administrators of the highest duties of humanity. That they should fail, and fail miserably, was inevitable. It deeply concerns us,

that this infusion into the body politic, of folly, and vice, and ignorance, of boundless credulity, united with the most inveterate scepticism—of a race which in all past ages has not shown the slightest capacity for free government, or even for self-improvement, shall not destroy even our own capacity for free institutions.

This race is in our midst, yet it is non-assimilable with, and unfit for absorption in the Caucasian race. We are two distinct peoples, with ethnological differences in our physical, moral, and intellectual natures of the most pronounced kind. These differences include all race differences and distinctions now existing on the earth. Each race here is the antipodes of the other. With this race we are to work out our destiny. We are to preserve peace and order, administer justice, and organize and operate governmental forces so as to advance the moral and material interests of the people. I confess the task appals me. I confess I do not see my way clearly to joining in harmonious and progressive action what God has so clearly sundered. Our duty is to try to work out the problem—try earnestly, hopefully if we may, fairly and honestly, with no ill-will to the associated race, but rather with charity and sympathy for them.

It is not germane to the purpose of this address to suggest political measures to diminish these troubles. But I may properly refer to the part which agriculturists may play in working out the problem before us. This race is now, and will always be mainly engaged in agriculture, the tenants and laborers and neighbors of the farmers.

If this people are ever to be trained to proper methods in politics, if they are ever to become intelligent co-workers with the whites for the public good, it must result from the teaching and example of the farmers of

the State. That this great work may be done thoroughly, the agriculturists must not only exercise a potential influence in public affairs, but they must be educated, so that this influence will be as beneficial as it will be powerful.

### Making Agriculture More Attractive.

Another result to follow the enlarged influence of agriculturists and mechanics in public affairs will be that it will counteract, to some extent, the prevailing disposition of the ambitious and progressive young men to avoid these pursuits and embark in those callings and professions, in which it is more easy to gratify their aspirations to serve in public life. With the education and training we propose to give in this Institution, the usefulness of farmers and mechanics in their respective callings will be increased, and at the same time, their capacities for useful and honorable public service will be greatly enlarged, and with this, will come an increase in the attractiveness of these callings. In whatever calling, culture and intellect are constant, operative forces, and the honorable consideration of mankind is accorded to its followers, will be found an attraction to draw to it the ambitious, the progressive and the capable.

Moreover, we propose to increase the attractiveness of country life by teaching easy and cheap methods of making the homes of farmers more attractive and desirable.

By a little skill in landscape gardening and rustic architecture the beauty of rural homes may be immensely increased. It will locate every cottage with reference to the best prospect, surround it with grassy

plots and shady trees, and cover its latticed galleries with vines which are both ornamental and useful.

Though our summer's sun may parch and scorch, yet he impregnates both fruits and flowers with a sweetness and perfume and paints them with a gorgeousness and splendor and imparts to vegetation a vigor and perfection unknown to more northern climes. Our farmers must be taught to use the sun's beneficent powers to counteract his baleful effects; and more, to create by intelligent work a large surplus of good, to beautify and adorn our land, to make it rich and prosperous and our people great and happy.

I do not believe that men degenerate in our Southern clime. They may be less energetic, less persistent and hopeful after failures and reverses, less disposed to sacrifice physical comforts to attain merely material ends, more apathetic, more prodigal, more passionate, than the inhabitants of higher latitudes, yet there has been no great occasion in our history when the grander capacities of humanity were called into action, that this call has been made in vain. That we have not advanced materially, equally with the Northern section of the Union, has been in a great degree (I am going to say what some will not like to hear) owing to African slavery, the introduction in our midst of an inferior race to whom manual labor in the main was allotted, and the consequent repulsion from our land of the more energetic and progressive races of mankind.

#### **Labor in the College as a Help to Education.**

In making manual labor a part of the educational system of this institution, we have not overlooked the fact that by it the means of the poor to attend will be increased. Our purpose is to make his labor useful as

well as educational, so that it will pay nearly all the expenses of the pupils.

### Its Military Drill.

Another feature of the College will be the military drill. We propose to teach military tactics to the extent that our graduates may serve the country in war with efficiency and honor. A large standing army is contrary to the genius of a free government. The main reliance of the country for defense in war, must ever be its citizen soldiers.

### The Difficulties in the Way.

I said in the outset that I proposed to tell you of some of the difficulties in the way of the success of this institution. In the first place, to put it in successful operation, will require a considerable amount of money from the public treasury. The people are now overtaxed, and they will be disinclined to increase their burdens, except upon the clearest necessity. I feel the force of this; but still the money must be raised; suitable buildings must be erected; a laboratory furnished; live-stock and farming implements purchased, and suitable professors and assistants employed, or the enterprise must be abandoned; and the money we have received from the Nation as an endowment, must be returned.

I do not think the Legislature will refuse to make the necessary appropriations. I do not think the people will complain of the burden necessary, in order to furnish medicine to cure the sick body politic, to revive the dying industries of the State. Retrenchment and reform in other directions will give the means of putting the Institution into successful operation, and

at the same time allow of a lessening of the public burdens.

Speaking for the trustees of this Institution, I say we mean not to antagonize any other educational institution in this State, but to co-operate with each and all of them. We shall enter into no rivalry with them, except in the generous competition to do good.

To the State University we extend the right hand of fellowship, recognizing in her a joint agency of the State with this College to educate her children. Though the paths of the two institutions may be different, their destination is the same—the public good.

All we ask for this Institution is equality and justice.

We do not expect this to be denied.

We want a fair opportunity to open the doors of the store-house of literature and science to the industrial and laboring classes of our population. We want to alleviate their labors by uniting them with an intelligent conception of a wise adaptation of means to ends, and infusing into dull and monotonous muscular exertion, the spirit and soul of a directing intelligence. We want to increase the usefulness and influence in life of the industrial classes, by increasing their capacities to do the work of the world. We want to augment the the store of happiness and comfort of those who do the world's most repulsive yet most needed work.

Another difficulty to be surmounted, is the procuring of one or two of the Professors for this institution. We shall have difficulty in getting a teacher of agriculture, who is both scientific and practical. If we apply to the graduates of some of the Agricultural Colleges already established, we will find them probably ignorant of the cultivation of the staple crops which we raise. We hope to bridge over this difficulty by

employing a scientific as well as a practical agriculturist, and by the joint action of the two, supply the place of one skilled in both the science and practice of agriculture.

There will be another difficulty in our progress. The public will expect results too speedily. In Mississippi we have been in the habit of growing only annual crops, reaping at the end, all that we have sown in the beginning of the year—embarking only in enterprises which make immediate returns. This habit will beget an impatience for immediate results. It will be four years before we can send out a graduate. So we bespeak patience. The Trustees will do all in their power to make the Institution useful and prosperous. It is a new enterprise. To some extent our efforts will be experimental; but we will proceed cautiously, and with all the information we can get, derived from an enquiry into, and examination of other similar Institutions, now established in nearly all the States of the Union.

And now we have seen some of the ends we propose to attain, and some of the difficulties to be surmounted.

The ends are noble; the difficulties not insuperable. To attain these ends and to overcome these difficulties, we appeal to all patriotic Mississippians for sympathy and aid. We invite calm, dispassionate and intelligent discussion and criticism of our work—friendly suggestions to aid us to walk aright in the difficult path we must tread. We bespeak patience in awaiting for results. And above all, we beg the hearty co-operation of all good men and women, all who take a pride in the advancement and prosperity of the State, in this effort to make labor more efficient and less repulsive, to lighten the burdens, and increase the enjoyments of the industrial classes of the State.











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